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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/596,926	06/29/2006	Gianni Ceccherini	72NP154563	2396

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General Electric Company
GE Global Patent Operation
PO Box 861
2 Corporate Drive, Suite 648
Shelton, CT 06484

EXAMINER

WONGWIAN, PHUTTHIWAT

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3746

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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09/30/2008

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

gpo.mail@ge.com
allyson.carnaroli@ge.com

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/596,926	Applicant(s) CECCHERINI ET AL.	
	Examiner PHUTTHIWAT WONGWIAN	Art Unit 3746	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 June 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 and 18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 and 18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 June 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>06/29/2006</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). The certified copy has been filed in parent Application No. MI2003A002621, filed on 12/30/2003.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 6, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

5. As to claims 6, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15 and 18, the limitation "that each pilot device of the series of fuel gas premixing pilot devices" is unclear.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

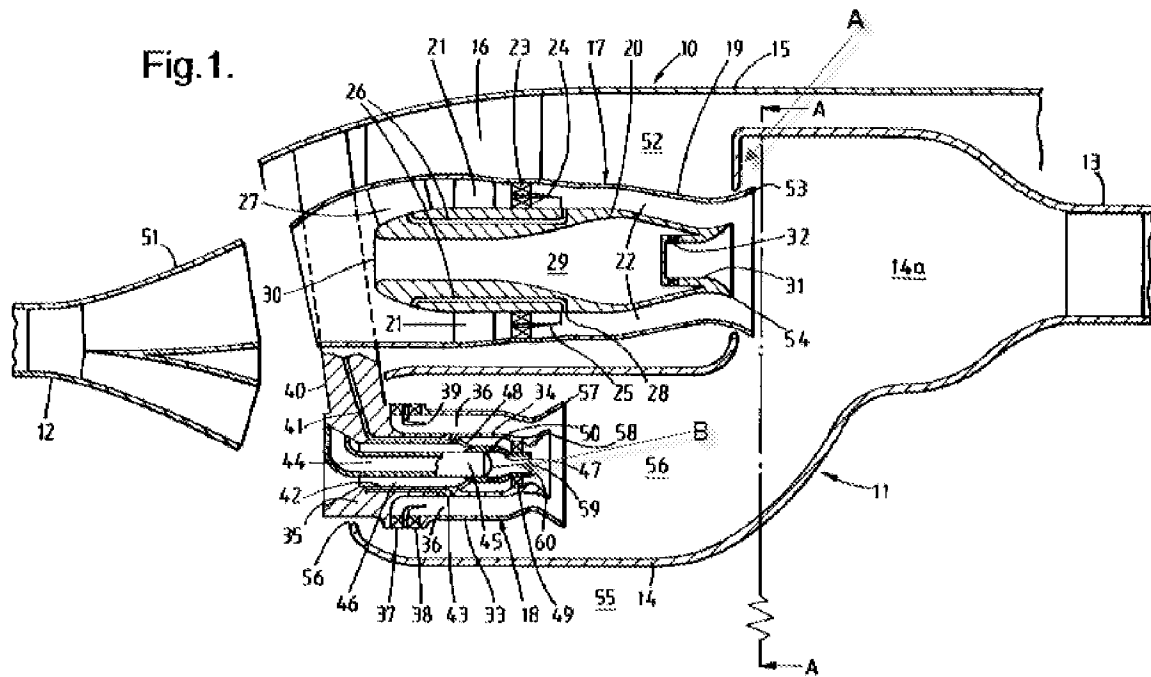
6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

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(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 1, 6, 7-9 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Richardson (US Patent No. 5,862,668).



8. As to claim 1, Richardson discloses a combustion system for a gas turbine equipped with a premixing chamber 22 (fig. 1) for air which is mixed with the fuel injected from a series of holes 28 (fig. 1) creating a main central flame which is formed in a flame tube 14a (fig. 1), the premixing chamber is convergent toward a connected end A (fig. 1, above part of the premix chamber is convergent toward a connected end) with a combustion chamber comprising the flame tube 14a (fig. 1), characterized in that the combustion system comprises a series of pilot devices 18 (fig. 1 and fig. 2) with

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premixing of the fuel gas which create a series of corresponding pilot flames suitable for stabilizing the main central flame it self, at the same time reducing the pollution emissions.

9. As to claim 6, Richardson discloses each pilot devices 18 (fig. 1 and fig. 2) of the series of pilot devices with premixing of the fuel gas comprises a premixing duct 33 (fig. 1) a series of holes 42 (fig. 1) for the fuel gas inside the premixing duct and a unit 18 (fig. 1) comprising at least one shaped element 39 (fig. 1) so as to create turbulence in the air flow in order to obtain a homogenous mixture of air/fuel gas inside of the premixing chamber itself.

10. As to claim 7, Richardson discloses at least one shaped element comprises a series of shaped blades 37 (fig. 1, the swirler vanes are considered to be the shape blades).

11. As to claim 8, Richardson discloses at least one shaped element comprises two series of shaped blades 37, 38 (fig. 1).

12. As to claim 9, Richardson discloses the series of fuel gas premixing pilot devices comprises a duct 41 (fig. 1) for the fuel gas, situated in a central elements 34 (fig. 1) inside the premixing chamber 36 (fig. 1) for stabilizing the flame of the pilot device itself, the duct 41 (fig. 1) is inside and coaxial to an annular duct 34 (fig. 1) for the fuel gas in turn connected to the series of holes.

13. As to claim 11, Richardson discloses the series of fuel gas premixing pilot devices comprises a mini-burner B (fig. 1 above) inside the premixing duct for stabilization the flame of the pilot device itself.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

14. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

15. Claims 1-3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bonciani (US Patent No. 5,660,044) in view of Richardson.

16. As to claim 1, Bonciani discloses a combustion system for a gas turbine equipped with a premixing chamber 2 (fig. 1) for air which is mixed with the fuel injected from a series of holes 15 (fig. 1) creating a main central flame which is formed in a flame tube 4 (fig. 1), the premixing chamber is convergent toward a connected end 11 (fig. 1) with a combustion chamber comprising the flame tube 4 (fig. 1). Bonciani does not disclose the combustion system comprises a series of pilot devices with premixing of the fuel gas which create a series of corresponding pilot flames suitable for stabilizing the main central flame itself, at the same time reducing the pollution emissions. However, Richardson teaches the combustion system comprises a series of pilot devices 18 (fig. 1 and fig. 2) with premixing of the fuel gas which create a series of corresponding pilot flames suitable for stabilizing the main central flame itself, at the same time reducing the pollution emissions. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify Bonciani's invention to include the combustion system comprises a series of pilot devices with

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premixing of the fuel gas which create a series of corresponding pilot flames suitable for stabilizing the main central flame it self, at the same time reducing the pollution emissions, as suggested and taught by Richardson, for the purpose of stabilizing the main flame, thereby reducing the emission gas from the combustor.

17. As to claims 2 and 3, Bonciani discloses the flame tube comprises a tapered connection end 11 (fig. 1) to the air premixing chamber 2 (fig. 1) but does not disclose that at the tapered end comprises a series of holes each housing a respective pilot device of the series of fuel gas premixing pilot devices wherein the series of holes are positioned at an equal distance along a circumference of the tapered end of the flame tube coaxial with its axis. However, Richardson teaches a series of holes 57 (fig. 1, the pilot opening) each housing a respective pilot device 18 (fig. 1) of the series of fuel gas premixing pilot devices wherein the series of holes are positioned at an equal distance 18 (fig. 2) along a circumference (fig. 2) of the surface of the flame tube. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify Bonciani's invention to include a series of holes each housing a respective pilot device of the series of fuel gas premixing pilot devices wherein the series of holes are positioned at an equal distance along a circumference of the tapered end of the flame tube coaxial with its axis, as suggested and taught by Richardson, for the purpose of stabilizing the main flame, thereby reducing the emission gas from the combustor

18. As to claim 5, Bonciani discloses a feeding duct 25 (fig. 1) of the fuel which surrounds the central body.

19. Claims 4 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Richardson in view of Goodrich (US Patent No. 6,094,904).

20. As to claims 4 and 18, Richardson discloses the each pilot device comprises two ducts 45 46 (fig. 1) but does not disclose that a series of thermocouples outside the central body. However, Goodrich teaches at least one sensor such as a thermocouple for monitoring temperature inside the injector (abstract, line 6). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify Richardson's invention to include a series of thermocouples outside the central body, as suggested and taught by Goodrich, for the purpose of monitoring the temperature of the pilot injector, thereby, the combustor operates more efficient.

21. Claims 10, 12 and 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Richardson in view of Goodrich and further in view of Carberry (Pub. No. US 20020078684).

22. As to claim 10, Richardson discloses each pilot device comprises two ducts 45, 46 (fig. 1) inside the premixing duct 36 (fig. 1) but does not discloses two ducts for detecting the flow rate of the fluid inside the pilot fuel device itself and at least one thermocouple. However, Goodrich teaches at least one sensor such as a thermocouple for monitoring temperature inside the injector (abstract, line 6). Carberry teaches air/fuel sensor 38 (fig. 1) is coupled to the duct for detecting the flow rate of fluid inside the duct. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time

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invention was made to modify Richardson's invention to include two ducts for detecting the flow rate of the fluid inside the pilot fuel device itself and at least one thermocouple, as suggested and taught by Goodrich and Carberry, for the purpose of for the purpose of monitoring the temperature and detecting the flow rate within the pilot injector, thereby, the combustor operates more efficient.

23. As to claim 12, Richardson discloses a series of holes 49, 50 (fig. 1) for air and the mini-burner B (fig. 1 above) is connected to a duct 44 (fig. 1) for the fuel gas inside and coaxial to an annular duct 36 (fig. 1) for the fuel gas, in turn connected to the series of holes 41 (fig. 1, the fuel passage injects fuel through the holes).

24. As to claim 14, Richardson discloses a duct 36 (fig. 1) connected to the series of external holes 37, 38 (fig. 1, the air flow from outside of the pilot housing 18 through the swirler vanes) and a duct 36 (fig. 1) connected to the series of holes 41 (fig. 1, the fuel passage injects fuel through the holes).

25. As to claim 15, Richardson discloses the each pilot device comprises two ducts 45, 46 (fig. 1) but does not disclose that a series of thermocouples outside the central body. However, Goodrich teaches at least one sensor such as a thermocouple for monitoring temperature inside the injector (abstract, line 6). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify Richardson's invention to include a series of thermocouples outside the central body, as suggested and taught by Goodrich, for the purpose of monitoring the temperature of the pilot injector, thereby, the combustor operates more efficient.

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26. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Richardson/Goodrich/Carberry and further in view of Hayashi (US Patent No. 7,143,583).

27. As to claim 13, Richardson's modified invention discloses the essential features of the claimed invention except the pilot device comprises a series of holes outside the premixing chamber for stabilizing the flame of the pilot. However, Hayashi teaches a series of holes 28, 31 (fig .1) outside the premixing chamber 22 (fig.) for stabilizing the flame of the pilot, Therefore, it would have obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify Richards' invention to include a series of holes outside the premixing chamber for stabilizing the flame of the pilot, as suggested and taught by Hayashi, for the purpose of stabilizing the flame of the pilot.

Conclusion

28. Applicant is duly reminded that a complete response must satisfy the requirements of 37 C.F. R. 1.111, including: "The reply must present arguments pointing out the specific distinctions believed to render the claims, including any newly presented claims, patentable over any applied references. A general allegation that the claims "define a patentable invention" without specifically pointing out how the language of the claims patentably distinguishes them from the references does not comply with the requirements of this section. Moreover, "The prompt development of a clear Issue requires that the replies of the applicant meet the objections to and rejections of the claims." Applicant should also specifically point out the support for any amendments

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made to the disclosure. See MPEP 2163.06 II(A), MPEP 2163.06 and MPEP 714.02.

The "disclosure" includes the claims, the specification and the drawings.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PHUTTHIWAT WONGWIAN whose telephone number is 571-270-5426. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday, 7:30am - 5:00pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, KRAMER C. DEVON can be reached on 571-272-7118. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/P. W./
Examiner, Art Unit 3746

/Devon C Kramer/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
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